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Publications

ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

OPEN MEETING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

JUNE 13, 1975

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ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES

5-0172

MEETING

OPEN MEETING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

LOCATION

University of Waterloo

DATE AND TIME

June 13, 1975  
1:30 p.m.

5-0173

ATTENDANCE

OCUA MEMBERS

J. S. Dupré

M. A. B. Bush

T. Giesbrecht

A. D'Iorio

D. G. Hill

P. D. Fleck

J. F. Mustard

J. D. Fisher

M. F. Orange

R. Gerstein

R. P. Riggin

L. Good

H. H. Walker

W. A. Goyan

OCUA STAFF

J. P. Venton  
Executive Secretary

N. E. Simmons  
Associate Secretary

MCU (Observer)

B. A. Wilson  
Assistant Deputy Minister

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO DELEGATION

B. C. Matthews  
President

T. A. Brzustowski  
Vice-President Academic

A. B. Gellatly  
Vice-President Finance and Operations

W. A. McLaughlin  
Dean of Engineering



W. B. Pearson  
Dean of Science

J. S. Minas  
Dean of Arts

Friar C. L. Siegfried  
St. Jerome's College (Head)

J. S. Stone  
President, Faculty Association

D. Brown  
President, Graduate Student Union

A. P. Telegdi  
Senator (Undergraduate student)

D. S. Scott  
Senator (Faculty member)

R. M. Irving  
Senator (Faculty member)

L. A. Watt  
Dean of Graduate Studies

G. S. Kenyon  
Dean of Human Kinetics  
and Leisure Studies

A. M. McLachlin  
St. Paul's College (Head)

J. Shortall  
President, Federation of Students

M. J. Rowe  
President, Staff Association

H. K. Ellenton  
Senator (Faculty member)

J. D. Kalbfleisch  
Senator (Faculty member)

K. R. Davis  
Senator (Faculty member)



In addition to items dealt with in depth in the brief, discussion focused on the following:

5-0174

#### FORMULA REVISION

##### i) Student Weights

In Arts at Waterloo it was reported that a considerable number of courses were shared by the honours and general students during the first three years. However, where the distinction could be made, honours classes were generally smaller in size and curriculum requirements varied between the two streams. The average weight in undergraduate Arts was slightly higher than the general weight of 1.24 used at the University of Toronto.

As well, Waterloo drew attention to its request for weight changes in Architecture and Engineering (off-campus (M.A.Sc.)). With regard to the latter it was pointed out that the University had turned down requests from St. Catharines and other centres to offer this course off-campus.

##### ii) Correspondence Courses

Waterloo's existing expertise in the area of correspondence courses and established administrative structures were reported to have facilitated growth and diversification of course offerings to correspondence students. Course start-up costs were high, but could be amortized over a number of years. The same admissions criteria applied to all applicants, including correspondence courses.

5-0175

#### TUITION FEES

The University's brief had supported retention of Board authority for the determination of tuition fee levels.

A student member of the delegation expressed the opposite opinion on grounds that Board setting of fees would create inefficiencies which



could be avoided if the Government, as elected representatives of the people, took on this task. He also noted that fee variances among institutions would promote differentials in programmes quality.

5-0176

#### ACCESSIBILITY

##### i) Calibre of Entrants

The delegation indicated that more stringent admission requirements such as successful completion of literacy and numeracy tests were under consideration. It was hoped that this issue would be approached on a province wide basis by both the universities and the secondary schools. The delegation did not feel that the universities should develop entrance exams due to their possible steering effects on high school course content.

##### ii) Disadvantaged Students

The delegation noted as an example of its offerings for educationally disadvantaged students the mature student programme in Engineering where following successful completion of selected correspondence courses mature students were admitted directly into the Engineering programme.

It was stressed that the University was unable to offer intensive skill make-up courses in that funding was not received for this type of activity.

5-0177

#### GRADUATE STUDIES

In discussion of graduate studies, the delegation suggested that before improving a potentially strong graduate programme a university should determine whether a need exists in the system for the programme and also whether the proposed programme is required by the individual university to complement existing programmes of excellence. It was also pointed out that given financial stringency a university might be required to terminate an excellent programme in an isolated field in order to develop potential in programmes more closely related to the university's primary thrust.



It was felt that the University collectivity should begin to be more stringent concerning new programme recommendations and that there should be demonstrable public need and demand for proposed new programmes. By the same token, the delegation cautioned that both the collectivity and Government must recognize disciplinary evolution perhaps through special financing of new directions in graduate studies.

The delegation supported the concept of an ongoing mechanism for future qualitative reassessments in the graduate studies area.

5-0178 STATUS OF WOMEN

The delegation felt that progress was being made at Waterloo in the recruitment of greater proportions of women employees and students. The University's stance was described as just short of an affirmative action initiative. The prognosis for women at Waterloo was considered good although it was recognized that changes would take time.

A student member of the delegation indicated that the student body wished to see women given preferential treatment in hiring and admissions.

5-0179 FINANCES

i) Capital Consumption

The suggestion that operating funds might be earmarked for equipment and maintenance in order to relieve capital consumption was not considered acceptable by the delegation.

The question of cyclic renewal funding was discussed and it was pointed out that Waterloo had received less than its entitlement for 1975-76 due to a misunderstanding of the reporting format. As to whether the regulations concerning cyclic renewal funds were applied equitably, the delegation felt that if the instructions to universities were clarified opportunities for equitable application would be improved. However, the University did not question the Ministry's prerogative



to choose among an institution's stated project priorities. With regard to capital equipment it was suggested that a possible cyclic renewal component should be calculated separately to recognize the accelerated depreciation of equipment versus buildings. At Waterloo 15% of capital received for new buildings had been devoted to scientific equipment and the University felt that obsolescence had become a more critical problem than maintenance. The University had attempted to make provision for equipment maintenance and replacement from private funds but due to financial stringencies had been forced to devote income from this investment to cover operating shortfalls.

ii) Differentials between Operating and Forecast Results

In 1974-75 Waterloo had budgeted for a deficit of \$331,000. However, when operating results were finalized the University was in a surplus position of \$159,000. To a large extent this differential in operating results was attributable to time lags in filling positions which became vacant during the year. Based on experience of this nature, the University intended in future to under-budget to the extent of \$150,000. It was the delegation's impression that more time was required to replace faculty than staff.

iii) Salary Increases

The delegation pointed out that the University had followed the principle that scale increases should relate to cost-of-living escalation. At Waterloo faculty on sabbatical leave were not replaced. The delegation suggested that this was a productivity factor that deserved recognition.

Salary scale increases at Waterloo had been kept within 2.5% of the CPI primarily through increasing the proportion of operating revenue devoted to salaries.

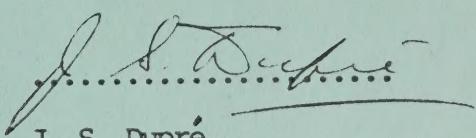


iv) Funding for 1976-77

Waterloo recommended a 5% increase in total operating revenue for inflationary catchup. This related to rectification of BIU value shortfalls over recent years and was felt would restore 1970-71 purchasing power.

N. E. Simmons.....

N. E. Simmons  
Associate Secretary



J. S. Dupré  
Chairman

